

# People—Places—Planes

Edited by Josh Phillips

## MILESTONES

A U.S. Navy F/A-18F Super Hornet completed the first captive carriage test of the AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapon C-1 variant at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) at China Lake on 4 March.

During a routine 3 April test flight, an MQ-8B Fire Scout vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicle supported its first drug interdiction with USS *McInerney* (FFG 8) and a U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement det.

Fleet Readiness Center East delivered the last H-53E to come out of desert retirement to HMT-302 on 7 May.

USS *George H. W. Bush* (CVN 77), the Navy's 10<sup>th</sup> and final *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier, conducted its first vertical replenishment with the dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS *Lewis and Clark* (T-AKE 1) on 18 May.

During flight operations the crew of USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) briefly celebrated as the 1,000<sup>th</sup> landing or "trap" since the ship got under way for flight-deck certification and carrier qualifications was completed on 27 May.



Vice Adm. Allen G. Myers IV, at right, relieves Vice Adm. Thomas J. Kilcline Jr. as Commander, Naval Air Forces, during a ceremony aboard USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) 1 July. The ceremony marked the conclusion of Kilcline's 37-year career as a naval aviator.  
(Photo by MC2 Adrian T. White)

The first test version of the F-35C, designed for use aboard Navy aircraft carriers, made its initial, 57-minute flight on 6 June.

## AWARDS

In 2009, the Grandmasters of HSL-46 won several awards, including the Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, Battle Effectiveness Award; the Sikorsky Golden Wrench Award; the Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Talon Award; the CNO Safety Award; and a Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, nomination for the Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy.

The commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command presented the 2008 Battenberg Cup to the crew of the amphibious assault ship, USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) on 2 November 2009.

Fleet Readiness Center East was announced in February as one of 25 winners in the 2009 CNO's Environmental Awards, and one of two commands chosen in the sustainability industrial installation awards category.

USS *Bataan* (LHD 5) was announced as a 2009 Force Health and Wellness Unit Award, or Green "H," winner March 12 by Commander, Naval Surface Forces, the ship's third consecutive award. The Green H goes to commands who demonstrate commitment to the health and welfare of their Sailors and Marines throughout the year.

USS *Denver* (LPD 9) was selected for the second consecutive year for the annual CNO Ship-Helicopter Safety Award in May, honoring the ship with the most outstanding aviation safety record for 2009.

The F/A-18 & EA-18G program office's (PMA-265) Green Hornet team won the CNO's Environmental Excellence Award in May.

## SCAN PATTERN

The Navy search and rescue team assigned to NAWCWD China Lake delivered a late Christmas present to Ruben and Crystal Arroyo on 28 December 2009 as the crew saved the couple's teenage son, who was lost in the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains after he spent the night alone in sub-freezing temperatures.

Elements from *Enterprise* and the Dragonslayers of HS-11 conducted an emergency medical evacuation from the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS *Kanawha* (T-AO 196) on 22 May.



*An F/A-18C Hornet with the Rampagers of VFA-83 flies over the Kajaki Dam reservoir in Afghanistan in May 2010. VFA-83 was embarked aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), which supported operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet's area of responsibility from 2 January to 28 July 2010. (Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Ben Stickney)*

As part of interoperability operations with the French Navy, a maintenance crew for the French aircraft Rafale F3 performed a 4 June jet engine swap-out on board USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75).

Approximately 4,500 sailors and Marines, seven ships, 60 amphibious assault vehicles, 16 air-cushioned landing craft, and numerous fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft participated in "Dawn Blitz," the weeklong amphibious assault exercise in June at Camp Pendleton, the largest such exercise since the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks.

In an induction ceremony held 1 June at Pakistan Naval Station Mehran, Karachi, U.S. and Pakistani officials commemorated the delivery of two P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft to the Government of Pakistan from the United States. The aircraft will enhance the Pakistan Navy's maritime patrol operations.

## ON THE MOVE

A team of 30 people from U.S. Southern Command deployed to Haiti in support of U.S. relief efforts in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake 12 January.

Eighty Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 deployed to Haiti from Gulfport, Miss., and 14 Seabee divers from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 deployed from Virginia Beach, Va., 15 January. NMCB 7 Seabees removed debris, cleared roads, and provided construction support. The battalion received the tasking the day

before and immediately began preparations to get the 690 short tons of cargo ready to roll.

*Bataan* and embarked Marines from the 22<sup>nd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) completed support to Operation Unified Response and departed Haiti 24 March after 10 weeks on station.

USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD 43) departed the waters near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, 11 March. The ship arrived in Haiti 18 January, six days after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the Caribbean nation.

Following a three-day cross-country delivery flight from Camp Pendleton, a freshly overhauled UH-1N Huey arrived at NAS Patuxent River in April to become the only maritime science and technology test bed helicopter in DoD.

USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), the flagship for Africa Partnership Station West, along with an embarked international staff, arrived in Dakar, Senegal, 6 April for the start of the second and final phase of the ship's Africa deployment.

The Navy's first littoral combat ship, USS *Freedom* (LCS 1), concluded its successful maiden deployment with arrival at its homeport of San Diego, 23 April. The deployment, the first for its class, came more two years ahead of schedule, taking the ship to three countries and through the U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet and U.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet areas of responsibility.





Rear Adm. Timothy S. Matthews, second from right, Commander, Fleet Readiness Centers, and Assistant Commander for Logistics and Industrial Operations, Naval Air Systems Command, gets a tour of VAQ-132 at NAS Whidbey Island during a "Boots on the Ground" event on 23 June 2010. Boots on the Ground is designed to give leaders the opportunity to interact directly with a command's various components. (Photo by MC2 Nardelito Gervacio)

The *George Washington* (CVN 73) Carrier Strike Group (CSG) departed Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, on 18 May to conduct carrier qualifications in preparation for its upcoming annual deployment cycle.

USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) departed NAS North Island for sea trials on 18 May. The event marks the first time that *Ronald Reagan* has been underway since 21 October 2009, when it completed its fourth deployment in four years.

The *Peleliu* (LHA 5) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) entered the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet area of operations on 30 May as part of its regularly scheduled Western Pacific deployment.

VP-26 Tridents made history on 8 June when the squadron's last P-3C Orion arrived at its new home at NAS Jacksonville.

Ships based at NB San Diego and NAS North Island began deploying on 15 June to the waters off Hawaii for the biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise, 23 June through 1 August, including *Ronald Reagan*, USS *Benfold* (DDG 65), USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6), USS *Chancellorsville* (CG 62), USS *Cleveland* (LPD 7), USS *Comstock* (LSD 45), USS *Devastator* (MCM 6), USS *Freedom* (LCS 1), USS *Hopper* (DDG 70), USS *McClusky* (FFG 41), USS *Pioneer* (MCM 9), and USS *Sampson* (DDG 102).

## CHANGE OF COMMAND

Capt. Patrick R. Cleary relieved Capt. Kevin J. Kovacich at a 24 September 2009 change of command ceremony for CVW-8.

Rear Adm. David H. Buss relieved Rear Adm. John N. Christenson of his position as commanding officer of CSG-12 on 20 October 2009 at Naval Station Norfolk.

Cmdr. Markus Gudmundsson relieved Cmdr. Robert Osterhoudt as commanding officer of VFA-41 on 23 October 2009 on board USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68).

Cmdr. Herschel W. Weinstock relieved Cmdr. Robert H. Buckingham during a change of command ceremony for HSC-3 on 5 November.

Capt. Pete Hall relieved Capt. Enrique Sadsad as commanding officer of NAS Whiting Field on 5 November 2009.

Cmdr. John L. Kelsey relieved Cmdr. William A. Bulis as the commanding officer of VT-21 on 5 November 2009 at NAS Kingsville.

Cmdr. Gilbert J. Miller relieved Cmdr. James K. Mitchell as commanding officer of VR-48 on 6 November 2009.

Cmdr. Jeffrey S. McIrvine relieved Cmdr. Philip R. Dupree from his duty as commanding officer of VAQ-209 on 7 November 2009.

Cmdr. Brad Garber relieved Cmdr. Douglas Thompson from his command of HSL-46, on 20 November 2009.

Cmdr. Mathew Frost relieved Lt. Col. Clay Stackhouse to assume command of HT-28 on 4 December 2009 at NAS Whiting Field.

Cmdr. Paul C. Ostrowski relieved Cmdr. Romeo A. Rosario as commanding officer of VR-56 on 5 December 2009.

Cmdr. William A. Hearther relieved Cmdr. Dennis R. Crews as commanding officer of VT-31 on 10 December 2009.

Cmdr. Timothy M. McGuire (USCG) assumed the duties of commanding officer for VT-2 from Cmdr. Warren N. Lipscomb III (USN) on 18 December 2009.

Cmdr. Brady Bartosh took the reigns of VX-31 from Capt. Eric Holmberg during a change of command ceremony on 15 January at NAWS China Lake.

The Aircrew Systems Program Office (PMA-202) received a new commander on 16 January, as Capt. Roger W. Ligon assumed command from acting program manager Cmdr. Ralph Lee.

Cmdr. Larry A. Sidbury relieved Cmdr. Daniel K. Buckon as the commanding officer of VFA-31 on 5 February at NAS Oceana.

Cmdr. Peter A. Yelle relieved Cmdr. Carden F. Warner III, at a 25 March change of command ceremony for the Electronic Attack Weapons School.

Rear Adm. Mark I. Fox relinquished command of Naval Strike Air Warfare Center to Rear Adm. John W. Miller in an April ceremony at NAS Fallon.

Capt. Christopher W. Plummer assumed command of NAS Pensacola in April following the dismissal of Capt. William P. Reavey.

Cmdr. Chris A. Middleton relieved Cmdr. Darryl L. Walker of command of VAQ-139 at NAS Whidbey Island on 22 April.

Cmdr. Jason R. Hammond relieved Cmdr. Richard A. Wiley as the commanding officer of VRC-30 on 29 April.

Cmdr. Sil Perrella relieved Cmdr. Stephen McKone as commanding officer of HSL-51 during a 3 May ceremony.

Lt. Col. Brian M. Kennedy took command of HMLAT-303 from Lt. Col. Mark E. Sojourner on 7 May.

HSM-70 held its inaugural change of command ceremony on 14 May, as Cmdr. Kenneth G. Kopp relieved Cmdr. William S. Walsh.

Vice Adm. David Architzel took the helm of Naval Air Systems Command from Vice Adm. David Venlet during an 18 May change of command ceremony at NAS Patuxent River.

Capt. Mark Storch passed the NAWCWD reigns to Capt. Mat Winter on 19 May. An assumption of command ceremony took place in June.

Cmdr. Christopher P. Fordham relieved Cmdr. Kenneth R. Johansen as commanding officer of VR-58 on 22 May.

Lt. Col. R.A. Carson relinquished command of HMH-462 to Lt. Col. E.W. Daniels on 26 May aboard MCAS Miramar.

Cmdr. Kevin Aanestad relieved Cmdr. Arthur delaCruz of command for VFA-22 on 27 May.

Cmdr. Jay A. Gagne took the helm as commanding officer of HSC-85 from Capt. Michael S. Newman on 12 June.

Cmdr. Thad Dobbert handed over the reins of VT-10 to Cmdr. Kevin Quarderer on 8 July at NAS Pensacola.

Cmdr. Thomas A. Long relieved Cmdr. Kenneth E. Hobmann as commanding officer of VR-55, 30 Jan.

## REUNIONS

The 2010 reunion for USS *Sellers* (DDG 11) will be held 30 September-3 October 2010 in Norfolk, Va. For more information, please contact Delta Hinson as soon as possible at 2901 Bamberg Pl., Virginia Beach, VA 23453. He can be reached by phone at 757-615-7089 or by email at [seldewcarwas@aol.com](mailto:seldewcarwas@aol.com), or on the web at <http://www.mlrsinc.com/sellers>.

The former crewmen of the USS *Tarawa* (CV/CVA/CVS 40) will be holding their next reunion in April 2011 in Baltimore, Md. If you served on *Tarawa*, please contact Cliff Gardner, 465 Gardiner Rd., Lot 35, W. Kingston, RI 02892; by phone at: 401-539-1149; or on the web at: <http://www.mlrsinc.com/tarawa> or <http://www.usstarawavets.org>.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> reunion of USS *Hornet* (CV 8, CV/CVA/CVS 12) will take place in Tucson, Ariz. on 20-24 October 2010. For more information contact Carl and Sandy Burket at P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. You can also call 814-224-5063 or email [hornetcva@aol.com](mailto:hornetcva@aol.com). Please visit the reunion web site at <http://www.usshornetassn.com>.



*The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in Rim of the Pacific 2010 exercises. (Photo by MC1 Shawn D. Torgerson)*